ugh Quarterly Performance Review tings. The Ministry gives policy direcs to the Corporation from time to e to improve its functioning. The king of the Corporation is also dised in the meetings of Consultative mittee of Parliament attached to the istry. The last meeting of the Consul-e Committee was held on 24th ust, 1994.

chase of paddy in Punjab and Haryana

05. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will Minister of FOOD be pleased to :

i) whether it is a fact that the Food poration of India and the State agendid not enter the markets in Punjab Haryana for the purchase of paddy ie first fortnight of the current season sing huge losses to the farmers in e States;

) wehther it is also a fact that the s were forced to resort to distress sale addy in the markets;

) whether it is als a ofact that the ers were forced to sell their more Basmati Paddy at the rate of Rs. 300 quintal instead of Rs. 360, the support fixed by the Central Government in absence of the Food Corporation of and Government Agencies in the of Haryana and Punjab; and

) if so, whether Government propose ompensate the loss incurred by such ers?

HE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE ISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP H RAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The tum of paddy purchased in Punjab Haryana during the current Kharif keting Season 1994-95 as on 23-11-94 of the order of 73.10 lakh tonnes and lakh tonnes respectively as com- to 54.38 and 1.26 lakh tonnes ctively procured during the corresing period last year.

(c) and (d) Since the prevailing rates in Mandis in Punjab and Haryana for Basmati paddy are at levels much higher than Minimum Support Prices for paddy, Basmati paddy is not offered by farmers to procurement agencies for sale. As regards Non-basmati superfine paddy, in the initial stages of procurement there were some complaints related to quality of paddy. Permissible maximum percentage of admixture of lower variety of grains in superfine variety of paddy is 10 per cent as per spectfications. There was, however, pressure in some areas that the procurement agencies should purchase superfine variety of paddy with even higher admixture of lower variety of grains. These problems have since been sorted out and the procurement operations are going on smoothly.

Minimum support price of rice in Punjab

506. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the minimum support price for superfine, fine and course varieties of rice in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that procurement agencies have failed to pay the fixed price for the above varieties to the farmers; and

(c) if so, the action taken against the erring officials and to compensate the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Minimum Support Price for common, fine and superfine varieties of paddy of fair average quality have been fixed at Rs. 340, Rs. 360 and Rs. 380 per quinta lrespectively for the Kharif Marketing season 1994-95.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.